

HE REDEEMED AN AX

Negro Attacked R. L. Buxton and His Family.

FOUR WERE ALMOST KILLED

George Neal, an ex-convict, Caught By a Posse.

TRAGEDY NEAR GAITHERSBURG

About 4 o'clock this morning residents of the village were startled by cries coming from the Buxton house—Citizens responded and found Mr. Buxton, his wife and two daughters lying unconscious in their own blood—A posse was hastily organized—Fifteen footprints led to Neal's house and he was taken into custody—Other arrests made—One of the daughters will die.

The people of the pretty village of Gaithersburg, Md., twenty miles from this city in the Metropolitan branch of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, were startled about 4 o'clock this morning by a dash and a brutal attempt to murder the entire family of Town Commissioner-elect R. L. Buxton by a negro supposed to be George Neal, an ex-convict, who forced an entry to the residence through the rear kitchen door. The weapon used was a heavy ax.

The victims are: R. L. BUXTON, husband and father, forty years of age, two bad wounds over the right side of the head. He may recover.

Mrs. R. L. BUXTON, thirty-two years of age, a terrible wound on the right side of the head, over temple, skull crushed, and physicians say she cannot live throughout the day.

MAUD BUXTON, sixteen years old, struck over left temple. Still unconscious and may die.

Baby, three years of age, not struck, but badly frightened.

THE HOME IN GAITHERSBURG. The Buxton family reside in a cozy home in the center and most thickly settled portion of Gaithersburg. Their house is situated between the houses of James Englehart on one side and Mrs. Arnold on the other. Immediately across the thoroughfare, Frederick avenue, is the residence of Messrs. Joseph and Thomas Phocas.

About 4 o'clock this morning a young man named Virts was passing the Buxton house, he was startled by piercing screams of "murder" in a woman's voice proceeding therefrom. He at once repeated the cries of help and aroused the English, Arnold and Phocas families. Together they went to the Buxton home. The rear kitchen door was open, where the murderer had forced an entry.

The party of rescuers proceeded quickly to the second story, where the bed chambers are located. A terrible scene met their gaze. The furniture was in great confusion, while lying about the apartment in their night garments were the father, mother, and their two daughters, Maud and Sadie. All were unconscious and their clothes were drenched with blood. The trails and furniture were also bespattered.

The three-year-old baby had escaped the fury of the fiend and was weeping lustily. The infant's escape is due, no doubt, to the fact that it was lying between its mother and father and was not seen by the murderous negro. Physicians were hastily summoned and the home converted into a hospital.

The ax with which the bloody deed was committed was found in the bedroom, its blade and butt covered with blood and matted hair.

THE EXCITED CROWD. In an incredibly short space of time the house was filled with excited citizens, while a great crowd surged about the outside. One of the first on the scene was Rev. L. L. Lloyd, pastor of the M. E. Church, South.

The preacher at once converted himself into a detective, and with Deputy Sheriff Horton G. Thompson and a posse of pursuers. They examined the rear kitchen door and found footprints in the soft, rain-soaked earth. These were tracked to the vicinity of George Neal, a negro desperado, who was but recently released from the Maryland penitentiary, where he served a ten-year term for attempting to criminally assault Miss Neal, a sixteen-year-old white girl. At the time of Neal's arrest Mr. Buxton was belittled and was instrumental in bringing about the negro's arrest and conviction.

There are some who say Neal threatened to kill Mr. Buxton on sight when he was released from prison. Mr. Buxton and his family were taken to the house of Mr. Thompson and his family who had partially recovered consciousness, but their condition was such they were unable to identify him.

The prisoner was then placed under a strong guard for safe keeping.

SCOTED THE WOODS. In the meantime Mr. Frank Ward and William Garrett of Hunting Hill had mounted their horses and were patrolling the woods on the outskirts of Gaithersburg. About a half mile from the village they discovered a strange negro lurking in the woods. He was about twenty-five years of age, tall, and weighed about 180 pounds.

The pursuers held him up at the points of their revolvers immediately in front of the residence of Mr. Thomas J. Owen, of the auction house of Thomas Dowling No. 612 E street northwest, this city. Mr. Owen, himself, also joined the posse.

The unknown negro started to run, and, running his galloping horse against him, sent the fellow sprawling in the roadway. Before he could regain his feet the captors commenced to bind his hands and legs.

One of the captors, a white man, remarked the colored man. This was before Mr. Ward and Gar-

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HUNTING FOR BONDSMEN

Bail in Francis Kiechhofer's Case Fixed at \$25,000.

DETAINED AT STATION HOUSE

While His Attorney Was Looking for Friends to Go on the Bond the Defendant Killed Time by Playing Cards—Government Officials Expect to Secure a Conviction.

LOOKING FOR BONDSMEN

Mr. Francis J. Kiechhofer, late chief of the accounting division of the State Department, who was arrested last night by detectives and taken to the station house, is now being held there. His attorney, Mr. Arthur W. Ferguson, has a consultation with Judge Miller and Assistant District Attorney Charles H. Ames, who has charge of the case. The government, Mr. Ames insisted that the bond named by him under Mr. Ames' authority, \$25,000, should not be reduced. Mr. Ferguson thought this was excessive, considering that Mr. Kiechhofer has been going quietly about his business here since the alleged shortage was discovered. He is a man of about 40 years of age, and is a native of Germany. He is now being held in the station house, where he is playing cards with some of the other prisoners. The government officials expect to secure a conviction.

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